

**REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA  
AND RECORD OF ACTION**

March 16, 1999

**FROM:**       **RAYMOND B. WINGERD**, Chief Probation Officer  
                  Probation Department

**SUBJECT:**    APPROVE OPERATION AND FUNDING FOR SAN BERNARDINO PROBATION  
                  CAMP HEART BAR

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Authorize Probation to operate Camp Heart Bar.
2. Approve Special Use Permit and Participating Agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, and authorize Chief Probation Officer to execute Permit and Agreement.
3. Approve the addition of 18 authorized positions to the Probation Department as follows:
  - One (1) Division Director I
  - Three (3) Supervising Group Counselor I's
  - Ten (10) Probation Corrections Officers (Group Counselor)
  - Four (4) Night Supervisor I's
4. Authorize the Purchasing Agent to purchase the following vehicles in the Social Services Group Administration Budget: AAA DPA DPA 4050, two (2) 4X4 Chevrolet Suburbans at \$40,000 each for a total of \$80,000.
5. Authorize the Purchasing Agent to purchase the following vehicle in the Probation Budget AAA PRN PRN 4050, one (1) 4X4 Chevrolet Suburban at \$40,000.
6. Authorize the Auditor/Controller to increase/decrease the following accounts:

	<b><u>DPSS BUDGET UNIT AAA DPA DPA</u></b>	
Vehicles	Increase Account 4050	\$80,000
Gain Transportation	Decrease Account 3110	(\$80,000)
	<b><u>PROBATION BUDGET UNIT AAA PRN PRN</u></b>	
Regular Salaries	Increase Account 1010	\$58,740
Indemnification	Increase Account 1135	\$16,260
Group Insurance	Decrease Account 1200	(\$40,000)
Vehicles	Increase Account 4050	\$40,000
 Federal Aid - Children	 Increase Account 9010	 \$75,000

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Record of Action of the Board of Supervisors

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**APPROVE OPERATION AND FUNDING OF HEART BAR CAMP**  
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**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** The Probation Department is in need of a short term, high impact placement program within San Bernardino County for male wards. The Department has previously utilized a similar privately operated out of state program which dramatically reduced repeat criminal acts by wards and reduced costs as well. However, the passage of Senate Bill 933 effectively prevents the use of out of state high impact programs. The bill makes placing minors out of state a complex, slow process and imposes California Foster Home Standards outside of the state. California licensing regulations prevent private providers from running short term, high impact placement programs of a non-medical model in California.

The U.S. Forest Service has approached San Bernardino County Probation to explore the feasibility of Probation operating a forestry centered program at the Heart Bar Forest Station near Big Bear. As designed, the program would provide a valuable sentencing alternative for the Juvenile Court and assist the Forest Service with needed maintenance and fire prevention projects. The Juvenile Court is extremely supportive of this proposal. This intensive 90 day program will have positive behavior impacts on the screened and motivated minors. The camp will utilize a restorative justice model with the wards giving back to the community through work projects along with receiving education and counseling. The Department is requesting 18 various positions in order to ensure significant adult guidance and supervision. Staff will be working side by side with the minors on trail maintenance fire prevention, and a host of other badly needed forest enhancement projects. In this manner staff will provide a positive role model, promote teamwork and have a positive impact on the minor's basic values. The creative education component will be provided by County Schools with an emphasis on value clarification and environmental issues. The California Board of Corrections standards allows County Probation Departments to operate this type of program. The Board of Corrections has inspected the site, and has given approval for twenty (20) beds, conditional on minor structural modifications. The modification materials will be purchased out of this fiscal years probation budget. The Forest Service will provide the labor.

A proposal presentation regarding this program has been given to the area private camp association. The feedback was positive and supportive. A letter requesting comments was sent to the area forest service lease cabin owners in early March. There are no permanent residences in the immediate area.

The Social Services Group and County Schools have worked collaboratively with Probation in the development of this proposal. County Schools will provide a portable classroom and a teacher. The Social Services Group has agreed to purchase two (2) additional vehicles for the transportation of minors. Adequate transportation vehicles are essential due to the camp location.

**REVIEW BY OTHERS:** This item has been reviewed by County Administrative Office (Art Gomez), County Counsel (Kevin Norris), and Social Services Group (Bob McDonald).

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**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** Fiscal Year 1998/1999 staffing costs (June 1, 1999 to June 30, 1999), with the exception of the Director will be \$75,000, and will be funded by TANF Funds (Companion Board Agenda Item). Fiscal year 1998/1999 staffing costs for the Director (April 1, 1999 to June 31, 1999), and other start up costs for a vehicle and the building modification requirements identified by the California Board of Corrections total \$91,245 and will be funded by existing funds contained in the 1998/1999 Probation Department Budget.

The Heart Bar Program's annual operating cost, effective Fiscal Year 1999/2000, will be \$1,100,000. As an alternative to private foster care, the Heart Bar Program is intended to slow down or reduce the number of new juvenile offender placements in foster care. These foster care placements are funded through the Social Services Group Foster Care budget. The funding for the annual operating costs of the Heart Bar Program will be redirected from the Social Services Foster Care budget to the Probation Department budget in the form of Social Services Realignment Sales Tax revenues.

It is anticipated that the Heart Bar program will achieve federal and state cost reductions in Fiscal Year 1999/2000 of approximately \$1.3 million. Beginning in Fiscal Year 2000/2001, it is anticipated that this new program will achieve cost reductions of \$2.1 million in federal and state dollars, and \$700,000 in net local dollars after paying for the annual operating cost of Heart Bar.

**SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS:** Third District

**PRESENTER:** Raymond B. Wingerd, Chief Probation Officer